

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 15, 2013

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The **Legislative Update** is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

First Regular Session of the 51st Legislature

Since last Friday, 534 floor actions filed; at least 42 of those related to legislation tracked by the Council on Aging. (See **FULL LIST** link later in this issue)

All committee agendas (House, Senate, Joint Legislative Budget Committee or JLBC) are posted at this [link](#). All Floor Calendars are linked [here](#).

Also: Standing Committees and their members are posted at:
<http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>.

2013 Session Timeline

Friday, February 22nd marks the last day for Senate Bills to be heard in Senate Committees and House Bills to be heard in House Committees.

Legislation

Legislative action on *some* of the bills tracked by the Council on Aging is outlined here with fact sheets or summaries from the Arizona State Legislature, when available. Note: summaries are also provided by *Arizona Capitol Reports-LOLA* and found on the FULL LIST.

H2401: service animal, definition, 2/13 from House Health Committee with amendment. House summary is shown [here](#) and amendment [here](#).

H2407: qualified immunity; nonprofit clinics, 2/12 from House Insurance and Retirement Committee with do pass. House summary provided [here](#).

H2426 mobile dentistry, 2/14 from House Committee of the Whole (COW) with amendment.

H2594: local transportation assistance fund; restoration, 2/12 referred to the House Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee.

S1090: dependent children; placement; grandparents; stipend, from Senate Committee of the Whole with approved amendments.

Floor amendment provided [here](#) and [here](#).

S1102: hearing aid dispensers, audiologist, 2/12 from Senate Rules with okay; 2/14 from Senate Committee of the Whole with amendment.

S1341: vulnerable adults; financial exploitation, 2/15 Senate Fact Sheet is provided here. Senate Fact Sheet provided [here](#).

S1408: fingerprint clearance cardholders; background checks, 2/13 Senate Public Safety held. Fact Sheet is linked [here](#).

Hearings next week:

Monday, 2/18

H2594: local transportation assistance fund; restoration, 2/18 House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee at 2 pm, House Rm 4.

LOLA Summary: Establishes the Local Transportation Assistance Fund consisting of various State Lottery Fund monies and annual appropriations to provide that the total monies available in each fiscal year equal \$20.5 million. Municipalities and counties will receive monies from LTAF in the proportion that their population bears to the total population. Annual State Lottery Fund transfers to the general fund are reduced. Also establishes the AZ State Parks Board of Heritage Fund consisting of specified State Lottery Fund monies.

H2401: service animal; definition, 2/13 House Health at 10 am, Room 4.

H2407: qualified immunity; nonprofit clinics, 2/12 House Insurance and Retirement at 2 pm, room 3.

S1237: guardianships, conservatorships; transfer, 2/18 at 1 pm, Senate room 1.

S1341: vulnerable adults; financial exploitation, 2/18 Senate Room 1

Wednesday, 2/20

S1353: health insurance; telemedicine, 2/20 Senate Health & Human Services at 2 pm, Senate Room 1

ALSO of interest

On Monday, the Governor announced the introduction of legislation aimed at simplifying the State's Transaction Privilege Tax (sales tax) code. The press release is provided [here](#). H2657: transaction privilege tax changes information can be found on the **FULL LIST** link below.

REMINDER: Bill summaries, actions, hearings and other information are all provided on the legislation tracked by the Council at the **FULL List** link provided below.

As of **day 33**, at least **1,145 bills posted, two (2) bills passed; two (2) bills signed; 67 memorials or resolutions posted and two (2) passed.** Some of these bills may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the **Legislative Update** web report page.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It **does** mean that the bill is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24960&listid=47124&print=true>

Note: The **FULL LIST web report** above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and **is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This list will continue to be edited and/or expanded as we have an opportunity to get through the bills as posted.** Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the **Arizona Capitol Times**.

Both the Senate and the House are adjourned at this time until Monday, February 18, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

If you want to learn more about the legislative process, see [Arizona Bill](#) and *From Idea To Bill To Law, The Legislative Process in Arizona* linked [here](#).

Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)**

Tracking Arizona's Recovery February 2013 is linked [here](#).

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators, **you may voice your thoughts at any time** by contacting the:

· **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only)

· Or **contacting your legislator from your area**...locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature [website](#)** and looking for: *How do I*

find My Legislators **or** by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

· **District maps** can be found [here](#).

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

H.R.713

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

Introduced on 2/14/2013 by Representative Jim Gerlach (PA-6), the bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means.

(Summary of text pending)

H.R.738:

To amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement that certain former members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces be at least 60 years of age in order to be eligible to receive health care benefits.

Introduced on 2/14/2013 by Representative Joe Wilson (SC-2), the bill was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

(Summary of text pending)

S. 46

Ensuring the Full Faith and Credit of the United States and Protecting America's Soldiers and Seniors Act

Introduced on 1/22/2013 by Senator Pat Toomey (PA)

Ensuring the Full Faith and Credit of the United States and Protecting America's Soldiers and Seniors Act - Requires the following to take equal priority over all other federally incurred obligations in the event that the public debt reaches the statutory limit:

(1) the authority of the Department of the Treasury to pay with legal tender the principal and interest on debt held by the public;

(2) the authority of the Commissioner of Social Security to pay monthly Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act; and

(3) the payment of pay and allowances for members of the Armed Forces on active duty.

Requires the Secretary of the Treasury, if the Secretary determines that incoming revenue will not be sufficient to finance the priorities described in this Act over the following two weeks, to:

(1) notify Congress of the expected revenue shortfall, and

(2) raise the debt limit by the amount necessary to cover the difference between incoming revenue and the revenue needed to finance such priorities on a two-week basis.

Prohibits such a debt limit increase from exceeding the difference between expected outlays for the listed priorities and expected revenue. Places in reserve and applies to the following two-week period any amount of incoming revenue in excess of the amount projected by the Secretary as necessary to finance such priorities.

On 1/22/2013, the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

S.328:

A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow certain critical access hospitals and sole community hospitals to use interactive telecommunications systems to satisfy requirements with respect to having a physician available to stabilize an individual with an emergency medical condition under the Medicare program.

Introduced on 2/14/2013 by Senator John Thune (SD) and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

(Summary of text pending)

H.R.473

Safe Food for Seniors Act of 2013

Introduced on 2/4/2013 by Representative Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11)

To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act with respect to the qualification of the director of food services of a Medicare skilled nursing facility or a Medicaid nursing facility.

On 2/4/2013, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number or title under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Share your opinions with members of Congress!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:
<http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

Links to the membership lists are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

You can contact the White House at this [link](#).

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

OTHER NEWS

From the **Administration for Community Living ACL Newsletter**

Monday, February 11, 2013

Recent Reports

[The Affordable Care Act – A Stronger Medicare Program in 2012](#)

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Date: February 2013

[Centenarians: 2010](#)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Date: December 2012

[Findings and Lessons From the Enabling Patient-Centered Care Through Health IT Grant Initiative](#)

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Date: February 2013

[Adult Smoking: Focusing on People with Mental Illness](#)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vital Signs

Date: February 2013

[Identifying and Selecting Long-Term Services and Supports Outcome Measures](#) Source: National Senior Citizens Law Center

Date: January 2013

National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease

The latest information is posted at this [link](#). (Be sure to scroll to the top of the page.)

Kaiser Health News

The Y Rolls Out New Health Program Targeting Diabetes is linked [here](#).

**National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities
NASUAD February 2013 State Health Insurance Assistance Programs**
looks at SHIP staffing and volunteer levels and is linked [here](#).

National Council on Aging – NCOA

Home Equity Advisor is posted [here](#).

Tips on Saving Money on Your Medications is linked [here](#).

**SAMHSA, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Older Americans Behavioral Health Issue Brief 6: Depression and
Anxiety: Screening and Intervention** is linked [here](#).

National Institutes of Health

Sleep and Memory in the Aging Brain can be found [here](#).

Food and Drug Administration

Guidance for Industry Alzheimer's Disease: Developing Drugs for the Treatment of Early Stage Disease is linked [here](#).

U.S. Department of Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks, *Go Direct* website provides information on switching electronic payments by March 1, 2013. **Website** is linked [here](#).

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Income Tax Assistance and Tax Credit Information

2-1-1 Arizona includes these resources at:
<http://www.211arizona.org/tax>.

WHAT: Family Caregiver Training Free Workshops provided by Luminaria Home Care, a program of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest in partnership with Pima Council on Aging and funded by DES/Division of Aging & Adult Services

WHEN: Workshops are offered in February and March

Workshop Flyer is provided [here](#).

Workshop information is provided [here](#).

WHAT: Arizona Coalition for Assisted Living Meeting and Education Segment

WHEN: February 26, 2013, 1:30 to 4 pm, Southwest Ambulance Training Center, East Bldg., 708 W. Baseline Road, Mesa, AZ 85210

For more information, call 480-292-5155.

WHAT: 22nd Annual Alzheimer's Education Conference

WHEN: March 1, 2013, East Valley Institute of Technology, 1601 W Main Street, Mesa AZ 85201

More information is posted at this [link](#) and [here](#).

WHAT: Helping the Helpers, Equipping those who Interact with Family Caregivers

WHEN: Friday, March 8, 2013, 9 am to 4 pm, Desert Springs Community Church, 14440 West Indian School Road, Goodyear, Arizona 85395

More information is provided at this [link](#).

WHAT: Arizona Stand Down

WHEN: March 8 – 10, 2013, Veteran's Memorial Coliseum/State Fairgrounds

For more information, go to: <http://www.arizonastanddown.org/>

WHAT: Senior Resources Conference & Expo

WHEN: Friday, March 15, 10 am to 3 pm, Liberty Traditional School, 3300 N. Lake Valley Road, Prescott Valley

For more information, open this [link](#).

Just in case you're interested

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

If you would like to submit an **educational** or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging